(1)	(2)	(3)
30.	Water Resources	Finalization of the Action Plan and Institutional Machinery for the National Programme on inter-linking of rivers.
31.	Water Resources/Law	Enact Central Legislation for control of ground water exploitation and rain water harvesting and encourage States to adopt model bill to regulate/develop ground water resources.

Schemes for backward and naxalite affected areas

321. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to take steps and chart out plans for development issues;

(b) if so, what are the priority agenda for this;

(c) whether Prime Minister has offered a special gift to people living in 25 most backward districts by providing for them Rs. 15 Crore per year;

(d) if so, whether during Tenth Plan period, Rs. 45 crore would be spent in each backward district;

(e) whether in coming three years, Rs. 5,940 crore would be spent to develop 132 poorest and Naxalite infested districts in the country; and

(f) by when the development of these districts would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) The Planning Commission has launched a new initiative in the Tenth Plan, namely, the backward Districts Initiative under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. Under this Initiative, 100 most backward districts in various States have been identified. In addition, 32 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism have also been identified. The main objectives of the scheme are to address the problems of low agricultural Productivity, unemployment and to fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure.

(c) The District Plans in respect of 25 districts were approved during the year 2002-03. However, the funds for these districts could not be released as the modalities of the scheme were yet to be approved by the Government. The first instalment of Rs. 7.50 crore for each of the 25 districts has already been released.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, sir. An amount of Rs. 15 crore will be allocated each year for three years i.e. Rs. 45 crore to each of the 132 districts totalling to an outlay of Rs. 5940 crore in the Tenth Plan Period.

(f) During the current financial year, a total of 66 districts, including 16 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism, are being covered. The coverage of the remaining districts will start from the next year.

Priority agenda on reforms

322. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a list of 130 policy initiatives has been drawn up for executing the Government's priority agenda on reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the concerned Ministries have been asked to prepare their time-bound action plans on how to achieve the objectives of the thrust items related projects;

(d) if so, whether a broad outline of the various projects identified and the action plans drawn up therefor, with their time targets; and

(e) the details of monitoring mechanism established to ensure timely completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) 163 Priority Agenda Items/ Thrust Areas relating to programmes/projects and policy initiatives have been identified by the Government for implementation in various sectors. A list of these priority agenda items/thrust areas is given in the annexure (*See* Appendix 200, Annexure No. 4)

(c) to (e) The concerned Ministries/Departments have drawn up their action plans, wherever required, with time frame in respect to their programmes/projects and policy initiatives for monitoring on regular basis.